

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 027780
ORIGIN AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 CPR-01 SS-15 SSO-00 /038 R

DRAFTED BY AF/C:JSBLODGETT:LAR
APPROVED BY AF:WESCHAUFEELE
AF/C:TRBUCHANAN
IO/UNP:GBHELMAN (
S/CPR:WRCODUS (DRAFT)
S/S - O:AWOTTO
S - MR. TARNOFF

-----080204Z 088979 /70

O P 080144Z FEB 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 027780

STADIS////////////////////////////////////
FOR AMBASSADOR YOUNG FROM AF SCHAUFEELE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OVIP (BONGO, OMAR), GB

SUBJECT:VISIT OF GABON'S PRESIDENT BONGO TO U.S.

REF: A) LIBREVILLE 0244 (NOTAL); B) LIBREVILLE 309 (NOTAL)

1. REFTELS, WHICH ARE BEING REPEATED TO YOU, REPORT REQUEST MADE BY PRESIDENT BONGO (THROUGH MAURICE TEMPLESMAN) TO PAY COURTESY CALL ON PRESIDENT CARTER IN MARCH OR APRIL.

2. AS YOU KNOW, BONGO TAKES OVER AS OAU CHAIRMAN IN JUNE OR JULY. WE HAD TENTATIVELY PLANNED TO RECOMMEND TO PRESIDENT CARTER THAT HE RECEIVE BONGO DURING THE FALL, IN COURSE
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PAGE 02 STATE 027780

OF VISIT BONGO WILL PRESUMABLY MAKE TO NEW YORK FOR 32ND UNGA. BONGO HOWEVER, HAS EXPRESSED STRONG DESIRE TO MEET PRESIDENT CARTER BEFORE HIS ACCESSION TO CHAIRMANSHIP OF OAU, NOT ONLY AS RECOGNITION OF GABON'S COOPERATIVE RELATIONSHIP WITH U.S. BUT ALSO BECAUSE HE FEELS IT WILL STRENGTHEN HIS POSITION AND PRESTIGE AT ARAB-AFRICAN SUMMIT IN CAIRO (MARCH 6-10) AND/OR AT OAU SUMMIT IN LIBREVILLE

IN JUNE/JULY.

3. IT IS OBVIOUSLY IN OUR INTEREST TO DO WHAT WE CAN TO CULTIVATE GOOD RELATIONSHIP WITH FUTURE OAU CHAIRMAN WHO HAS SEEN EYE-TO-EYE WITH US ON BROAD RANGE OF ISSUES (KOREA,

ANGOLA, TO LESSER EXTENT MIDDLE EAST). DIFFICULTY HERE LIES IN ARRANGING TWO SEPARATE MEETINGS WITH PRESIDENT IN EIGHT-MONTH PERIOD, FIRST AS GABONESE HEAD OF STATE, SECOND AS OAU CHAIRMAN, WHICH NOT ONLY COULD SET PRECEDENT BUT WOULD IMPOSE FURTHER BURDEN ON PRESIDENT'S BUSY SCHEDULE. MOREOVER, IF BONGO WERE TO SEE PRESIDENT CARTER SOLELY IN FORMER CAPACITY, WE FEAR IT MIGHT OPEN UP PANDORA'S BOX OF SIMILAR REQUESTS FROM OTHER FRIENDLY AFRICAN HEADS OF STATE -- E.G., BOKASSA OF CAE -- WHOSE VISITS WOULD NOT BE AS WELCOME AS THAT OF BONGO.

4. TEMPLESMAN TELLS ME HE HAS DISCUSSED THIS MATTER WITH YOU. WOULD WELCOME ANY THOUGHTS YOU MAY HAVE.

5. FOR LIBREVILLE: RE REF (B), WE HOPE TO HAVE MORE DEFINITIVE RESPONSE FOR YOU IN NEXT FEW DAYS. IN ANY EVENT, HOWEVER, EARLY MARCH VISIT APPEARS EXTREMELY UNLIKELY.
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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 08-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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